

# Chapter One

## Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+)

### Introduction and Background

TIME	EVENT	GRADE LEVELS	DETAILS	TIME OF YEAR
1987	ISTEP is created			
1988	ISTEP is first administered	1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9	Multiple-Choice Writing	Spring
1995	ISTEP changes to ISTEP+	Grades 3, 6, 8, and 10	Norm-referenced and Criterion-referenced Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	Fall
2000	Indiana Academic Standards are adopted			
2002 (2004)	ISTEP+ reflects Academic Standards	3, 6, 8 (10)	Criterion-referenced Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	Fall
2003	ISTEP+ adds other grade levels	3-8, 10	Criterion-referenced Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	Fall
2008	ISTEP+ moves to the spring	3-8	Criterion-referenced Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	Fall and Spring
2009	ISTEP+ / new Graduation Requirement	3-8 / Algebra I and English 10	Criterion-referenced Multiple-Choice Applied Skills	Spring / Completion of course

## The Purpose of ISTEP+ Assessments in Grades 3-8

The purpose of the *Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+)* program is to measure student achievement in the subject areas of English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In particular, ISTEP+ reports student achievement levels according to the *Indiana Academic Standards* that were adopted by the Indiana State Board of Education.

## Structure and Content of ISTEP+ Testing for Spring 2014

In light of the implications of ISTEP+ scores for students, schools, and corporations under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and PL 221-1999 (federal and state accountability), test administrators must be accurate and methodical in test preparation and administration, as well as in reporting student demographic characteristics. Testing personnel should note the following regarding the administration of the Spring 2014 ISTEP+:

1. ISTEP+ consists of two major components, the **Multiple-Choice Assessment** and the **Applied Skills Assessment** (open-ended). The multiple-choice and applied skills assessments are criterion-referenced and are designed to measure students' mastery of the *Indiana Academic Standards*.
2. Online Administration
  - a. For Spring 2014, the Applied Skills Assessment may be administered online for English/Language Arts and Social Studies.
  - b. For Spring 2014, it is anticipated that the Multiple-Choice Assessment will be administered online for English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies at all grades unless documented equipment and/or capacity issues prohibit a site from testing all students online.
3. Paper-and-Pencil Administration
  - a. Grade 3 ISTEP+ consists of one assessment book for English/language arts and mathematics during each assessment window.
  - b. Grades 4-8 ISTEP+ consist of one assessment book for the Applied Skills Assessment in March, and an assessment book and answer book for the Multiple-Choice Assessment in May. Based on capacity, schools will assess using ISTEP+ Online for the Multiple-Choice Assessment.
4. English/language arts and mathematics are assessed in Grades 3-8.
5. Science is assessed in Grades 4 and 6, while social studies is assessed in Grades 5 and 7; these test items are incorporated into the corresponding grade-level assessments for the paper-and-pencil administration.
6. The Mathematics portion of the assessment in Grades 6-8 has the following structure:
  - a. Students may use calculators on the Applied Skills Assessment and the second test session of the Multiple-Choice Assessment. They may use their own calculators or calculators supplied by the classroom teacher. Contact the school's Test Coordinator for a list of the electronic devices that are NOT permitted for use on any portion of ISTEP+, or go to <http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/calculatorpolicy.pdf>.
  - b. The assessment includes gridded-response items. The scoring guide that accompanies the practice test may be useful in identifying the ways in which an answer may be gridded correctly. Blank grids and a practice test are also available for download at

<http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/math-gridded-response-blank-sheet-gr-6-8.pdf> (blank grids) and <http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/griddedresponsepracticetest.pdf> (practice test).

- c. The assessment includes a reference sheet of formulas and conversions for students to use while testing. Students can use the reference sheet to help them solve some of the problems on the test. The reference sheet can be found at <http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/assessment/math-referencesheet.pdf>.
7. Sample items are available at <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8> in the “Item Samplers” section.

## Testing Accommodations

The approved accommodations outlined in *Appendix C* apply to ISTEP+. The provision of these testing accommodations may be administered by classroom teachers in addition to program area staff (i.e., EL teacher). Teachers need to be made aware of each student’s allowable accommodations.

## ISTEP+ (Grades 3-8) Assessment Windows for 2013-2014

Window	Dates	Administration Type
Applied Skills Assessment	March 3 – March 21, 2014	Paper-and-Pencil
Multiple-Choice Assessment	April 28 – May 9, 2014	Paper-and-Pencil
Multiple-Choice Assessment	April 28 – May 13, 2014	Online

## Exceptions to Required ISTEP+ Testing Dates

In general, no public or other educational institution administering ISTEP+ may administer ISTEP+ on dates outside of the assessment windows (see above) established by the State Board. However, the State Board has allowed the Department limited authority to grant exceptions to established testing dates under the following guidelines:

The Department shall:

- Not approve requests that provide for administration more than one week prior to the established period.
- Not approve requests for late administration.
- Approve only those requests based on long-standing community tradition or extraordinary or emergency circumstances.

Those wishing to request early administration of ISTEP+ should complete and submit a written request for approval (see form in *Appendix B*). The request should adhere to the State Board guidelines cited above.

For additional information regarding ISTEP+, please access  
<http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/istep-grades-3-8>